

ETHIOPIAN WEDDING TRADITIONS

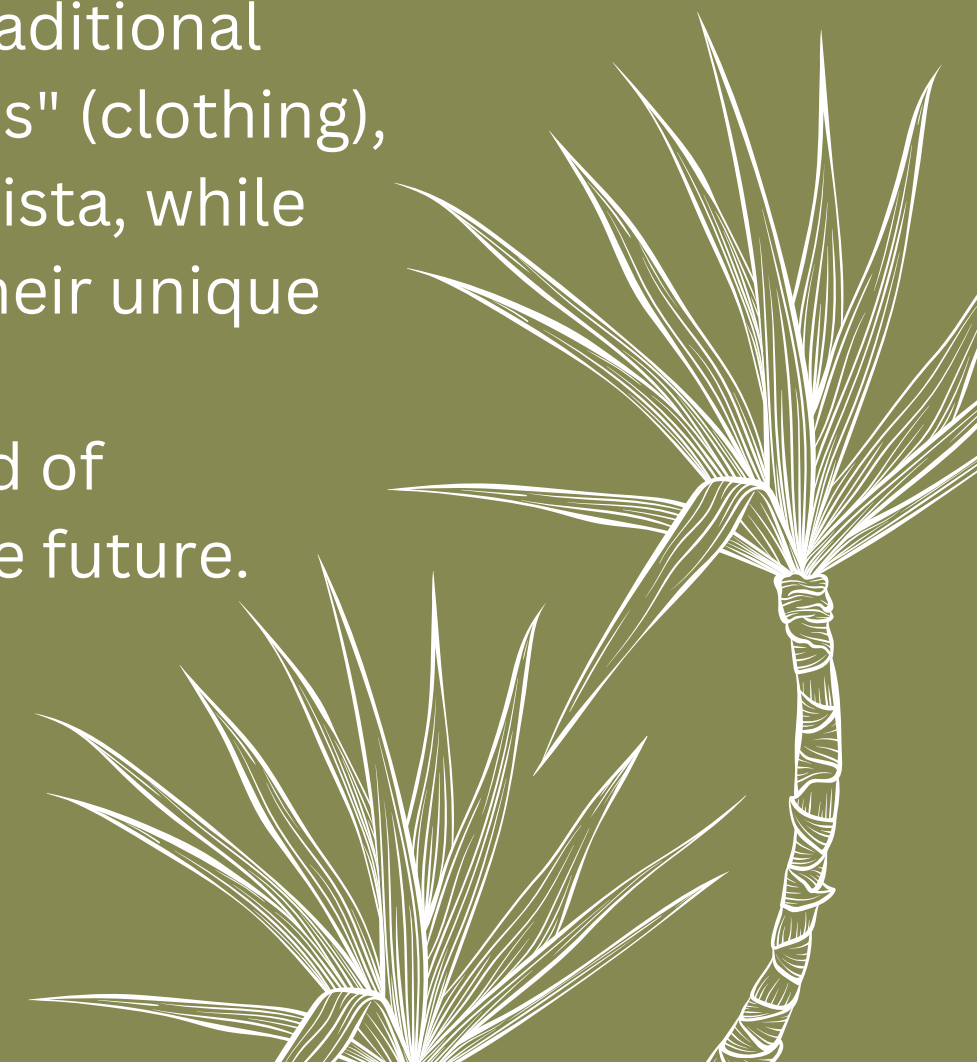
BRANTLEY EVANS





OUR COUPLE

- Kidus and Maya bond over their love for culture, music, and family traditions. Kidus, originally from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, grew up deeply rooted in Ethiopian customs and values. Maya, an African American with a passion for history and cultural preservation, was drawn to Kidus' heritage.
- They would like their wedding to feature traditional elements like the elaborate "Habesha Kemis" (clothing), coffee ceremonies, and dances like the Eskista, while incorporating modern touches to reflect their unique journey together.
- Their love story embodies a beautiful blend of traditions, unity, and shared dreams for the future.



ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA



OVERALL CELEBRATION

Kidus and Maya's wedding will be a beautiful blend of love and Ethiopian tradition.

The celebrations will begin with the Telosh Ceremony, where gifts unite their families. On the wedding day, the Groom's Arrival will feature playful traditions, followed by the Knee Kissing Ceremony with blessings from elders. A vibrant Wedding Lunch will include dancing and cultural music.

The day will continue with an Engagement and Cake Cutting Ceremony and a dinner at Kidus's family home. The festivities will conclude with the Kelekel Ceremony, honoring family and tradition. Their wedding will be a joyful celebration of love, culture, and togetherness.



PROPER CEREMONY PROTOCOL				
Day	Event	Location	Time	Details
2 Days Prior	Telosh Ceremony	Bride's Home	4:00pm - 7:00pm	Groom's family presents gifts to the bride, followed by guests presenting their gifts.
Wedding Day	Groom's Arrival	Bride's Home	7:30am - 9:00am	Groom arrives; playful exchange at the door; bride accepts flowers; everyone departs together.
	Photography Hour	Picturesque Garden	9:30am - 10:30am	Bridal party and guests take photos; vehicles decorated with flowers leading a road procession.
	Knee Kissing Ceremony	Wedding Hall Entrance	11:00am - 11:30am	Couple bows to elders, receives blessing to enter the hall.
	Wedding Lunch/Engagement Cake Cutting	Wedding Hall	12:00pm - 3:30pm	Couple makes a grand entrance, greets guests, & lunch is served after a prayer. Rings are exchanged, cake is cut, serve champagne, and bride throws candy-filled packages.
	Name Readings & Dancing	Wedding Hall	3:30pm - 5:00pm	Couple has first dance; guests join in; band announces messages from absent friends and family.
	Dinner at Groom's Parents' Home	Groom's Family Home	6:30pm - 9:00pm	Dinner party hosted by groom's parents; evening spent reminiscing and celebrating.
3 Days After	Kelekel Ceremony	Agreed Vemue	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Extended family gathers, parents bless the couple, and farewells mark the end of the celebration.

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MARRIAGE CLOTHING



Traditional outfits called *Kaba* to honor their cultural heritage. For the wedding itself, Maya will wear a stunning wedding gown, and Kidus will wear a formal traditional outfit, reflecting the elegance and cultural significance of the occasion.

HOSPITALITY

- Warm Welcomes: Guests are greeted with music, dance, and food, making everyone feel valued.
- Food and Drink: Traditional dishes like injera and stews are served, with the couple and family often sharing the meal.
- Cultural Traditions: Guests participate in rituals, blessings, and symbolic activities to experience Ethiopian culture.
- Gift Giving: Guests bring gifts to show respect and contribute to the couple's new life.





DECOR



SOURCES

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